

Supported Employment Leadership Network (SELN)
Meeting

Date: December 3, 2014
Location: 111 N Sanders Rm 207
Time: 10:00 – 3:00 pm. (break for lunch)

Attendees: Kelly McNurlin (DDP), Misti Hofland (VR-Great Falls), Mike Hermanson (DETD), Dorrie Fishback (Family Outreach), Randy Winstead (Family Outreach), Diane Reidelbach (Job Connection), Jenny Harris (DLI), Shannon Merchen (Reg 3 Manager), Jennifer Finnegan (DDP), Tom Osburn (SILP), Phyllis Astheimer (Family Outreach), Bill Harant (DET), Charlie Briggs (ESGW), Diana Tavary (PLUK), Karen Cech (recorder).

Phone Attendees: Tom Osborn (NCILS), Phyllis Astheimer (Family Outreach).

Kelly McNurlin introduced Jennifer Finnegan, budget analyst in the DDP Central office, to the SELN workgroup to learn what is happening and to give input on today's meeting. Kelly will need to delegate some of the SELN tasks and Jennifer may be able to help in some areas.

- **Finish Review of Focus Summary document (from last meeting) Areas of focus -**

The SELN workgroup continued their review of the Major Focus Area Summary document from September 2011, the Montana Findings and Observations Report from June 2011, and the SELN October 2014 minutes to see what areas the group should engage in.

The group will have to keep in mind with some of the focus points the new transition plan for HCBS Rule, the HCBS Rule timelines, and what guidance CMS will present to states on residential settings in the HCBS Rule.

- Review of Montana Findings and Observations document
 - Where have we improved?
 - Where is there still work to do?
 - What *hasn't* improved?
- Using both documents, identifying specific tasks/areas of focus
 - Who needs to be involved in the detailed discussions?
 - What are the short-term steps and assigned to whom?
 - What are some long term goals?

The following key focuses - Leadership, Goals & Policies, Financing, Service Innovations, and Collaboration - were reviewed by the SELN group and the following were discussion/brainstorming points.

- A bullet point on the list is to develop a forum to bring people together to share ideas and recognize best practices and high performance practices. It was asked if this is a

focus the SELN group should do and what would the target audience be? In the past there have been regional forums through DDP. There is a concern with communication across the state. A message of communication from Helena can get misinterpreted the further from Helena it gets.

- Is it a possibility to identify areas where schools do a great job at transitions and have them write down or describe their processes?
- DDP has been the lead on the SELN in the past. The group needs to focus on what it has accomplished as a group and move forward as a group represented by many agencies to accomplish projects. Suggestion was made to recruit some employers that have employed DD individuals to do a presentation at a SELN meeting to get their perspective on employment pros and cons. It may be a consideration to have employers on the SELN workgroup. Employers may be found through Chamber of Commerce's in towns across the state.
- Denise Juneau with OPI may be a source to contact "Graduation Matters" groups in the schools across the state. The focus in the program is to bring employers and graduates together and connect the two for employment. It may be beneficial to have a representative from the DDP Region Offices at these meetings.
- How does the Veterans Affairs recruit employment for veterans? Get ideas on how those groups get support.
- There are Regional Transition Groups connected to Independent Living Centers and that work with VR Disabilities & Transitions Division that have some funding for transitions. They are in Helena, Missoula, Billings, Great Falls, Miles City. Mark Menke is a key person to coordinate with.
- Job Service has monthly Job Service Employment Council (JSEC) meetings that are comprised mostly of employers. Perhaps having a parent or business who employs disabled individual(s) do a presentation at JSEC could better educate employers. SELN could possibly help network and get more businesses that have successes with our target population to participate in JSEC to keep open the lines of communication and feedback. Job Services also has community management meetings in some areas called CMT and BEAR
- WIOLA may have new transition project coming out. Project is to create a transition video to use in schools for teens in their junior year of high school.
- Jobs for Montana's Graduates (JMG) program is changing. The focus is changing to help individuals who do not receive a diploma but finished school.
- Through WIOLA, VR will have some funding to help with school and transition for teens.
- Transition from school to work occurs locally. Need to improve collaboration at local level with service agencies. Are Public Service Announcements an option? What about "Yes I CAN" announcements or videos?
- This is a struggle. VR may be able to help with some of the funding from WIOLA. There are some good transition videos and materials at local VR offices.
- OPI should be working to get the transition into IEP's. This should be a high priority.
- DD funding and planning doesn't encourage innovation in employment (timely)
 - This is still an issue. The employment definitions the SELN helped to develop and the Job Training Curriculum has helped. A flexibility of rates could help with rate

and tier options. A change to the current MMIS (Montana Medicaid Information System) system would be a major cost. There will be advantages and disadvantages to the billing system entering MMIS.

- Focus may need to case managers to have them talk to the individual about employment while in school to get individuals thinking about what they would like to do for employment. PSP needs to have employment more prominent in their discussion. Kelly will ask Loretta Lowe (CM Supervisor) if there is a Michael Smull tool specific to employment.

Significant Topics:

- Service Innovation - Collaboration - Transition out of high school and into the workforce. Proactive options to take:
 1. Approaching school boards (MSBA) and Administrators Association (MSAA) may be options. How much do boards know about the extent of complaints for parents? Charlie Briggs said he had some contacts that he would email Kelly.
 2. Look at other states with the same school set up to see what their transition process is.
 3. Contact Denise Juneau.

To do list:

- Mike Hermanson will get and send the list of Independent Living Centers across the state to Kelly.
- Kelly will ask Loretta Lowe (CM Supervisor) if there is a Michael Smull tool specific to employment.
- Kelly will check with Wendy Studt (Part C/Early Intervention Coordinator) what the FES focus is for employment.
- Independent Living Centers give a presentation to SELN on what services they offer. Tom Osborn will put a presentation together and will schedule presentation for one of the next SELN meetings.
- Charlie Briggs will email Kelly some names of contacts with school boards (MSBA) and Administrators Association (MSAA).

The next SELN meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2015 from 10 - 3:00 pm at 111 N Sanders in Conference Room 207.

Conference Room 207 has been reserved for the following SELN meeting dates:

February 26	March 26	April 23
May 28	June 25	July 23

***Please put the dates in your calendars.